A

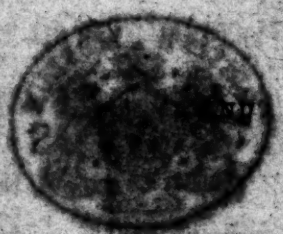
REVIEW

OF

GERMAN LITERATURE,

TRANSLATED BY

CHRISTIAN SCHULZE,



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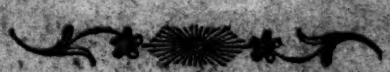

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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IT is matter of notoriety, that Germany abounds with learned works in every branch of ſcience and polite literature, which, although periodically made public, and ſubmitted to critical ſtricture in the German cities, are unavoidably precluded from men of learning in England and Ireland, in conſequence of being unacquainted with the German language. To enumerate the beſt works, and the variety of living authors in the empire, would be too prolix for this brief proſpectus; for, although many geniuſes, from the cauſe already aſſigned, muſt be generally unknown in

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theſe countries, as famous as they may be at home; yet few, that cultivate the ſtudy of the Engliſh claſſics, are unacquainted with the name of profeſſor Kant, who demarked an epoch in philoſophy; or with the charming imagination of Geſner; or with the romantic ability of Schiller; and, above all others, with that modern Shakeſpeare of the continent, Kotzebue, who, through the able writers of England, who favoured the Britiſh readers with tranſlations of his natural and ſentimental dramatic muſe, has become familiar to the perufal of Britiſh ſubjects—ſo, that in Great Britain chiefly, the attainment of the German language, is becoming faſhionable; and certainly, from the near affinity between it and the Engliſh language, and from the ſimilarity of temper, obſervable between Britons and Germans, the ſtudy muſt, by habit, appear more congenial, and perhaps more beneficial, in point of moral acquiſitions, than the language of France, which, however

however faſcinating it may be, does not equally ſuit the genuine humour of Engliſh readers.

It is therefore propoſed to publiſh a periodical work, which ſhall contain a tranſlation of the German critical reviews of all the German Literature. In fine, the idea of the tranſlator, is to ſubmit monthly a faithful copy of the German critiques of new books, and to begin with the publications of the preſent year.

To complete this work, ſo, as in proceſs of time to have an entire review of all German productions, the tranſlator intends to publiſh, every ſix months, one volume extra, which ſhall include the critical reviews of former years. But as the field of Literature becomes more barren, the farther we go back to the origin and uncultivated ſtate of any nation, the work ſhall commence at that period, Germany became noted for its literary productions. The firſt extra volume of the Review, ought very properly

properly to include an hiſtory of the German language.

In order to avoid partiality and erroneous cenſure, the beſt of the German reviews that can be procured, as thoſe of Berlin, Goettingen, Leipzig, &c. ſhall be confronted, which is a material circumſtance, on account of the difficulty of procuring all the originals. The taſk of the tranſlator, if tolerably well executed, cannot but afford pleaſure and advantage to the literati of Ireland—who will thereby catch with a ſingle glance the ability or deficiency of the ſtrictured work, which, accordingly as it may ſquare with the learned reader's genius or talent, may kindle in him a deſire to peruſe the entire production, and in ſome caſes, excite an emulation to rival the author, he reads.

On this topic, the tranſlator, though well aware of the difficulty to render the ſpirit and ſubject matter of the original with fidelity and

preciſion

preciſion, begs leave to premiſe, that, having been born a German, and literally educated, and having publiſhed ſome works in his native language, which have been approved of, he may be thought capable of giving a faithful tranſlation, as he has reſided ſome years in England and Ireland, in order to acquire a knowledge of the language, manners, and authors of both countries.

It would be uſeleſs to ſwell this proſpectus with prolific promiſes, but he will not heſitate to add, that he truſts, the enlightened and learned readers of Ireland will enable him to perform, what he propoſes, with the uſual aid of ſubſcribing patronage. Whenever any curious work in German appears, which may raiſe the public mind, to know more of it, than is generally given in a Review, the author of this proſpectus will be happy to gratify his ſubſcribers with a tranſlation of its entire contents.

The terms of ſubſcription ſhall not be an obſtruction to make this Review of German Literature as general as poſſible; but conſidering the neceſſary expences of ſuch an undertaking, the terms muſt exceed thoſe of the Britiſh Reviews. Great care, however, will be taken, that the difference ſhall not be very conſiderable.

To enable the author of this proſpectus to go on in his enterpriſe, he requeſts, that the ſubſcribers will pleaſe to pay one guinea in advance, to be depoſited at the Dublin Society Houſe for Mr. Schulze, or at Mr. Mercier's, Angleſea-ſtreet, who will be good enough to receive ſubſcriptions, and remit the neceſſary ſums for procuring German Reviews to the tranſlator's correſpondents in Germany.

The author intends to employ his leiſure-hours in giving inſtructions in the German and French languages. Any commands left for him

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at the Dublin Society Houſe, or No. 29, Frederick-ſtreet, Naſſau-ſtreet, ſhall be punctually attended to.

Inſtructions in the German language, two guineas a month, and two guineas entrance; French, one guinea per month, and one guinea entrance.

His lectures in the German language will be illuſtrated by his dictates of materials for a German grammar.

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